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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 Sept 53

SUBJECT Chemapol Imports of Cellulose, Raw Borax, Potash Salts, and Carbon Black for 1953

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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DATE OF IN

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Chemapol AS planned to import 2,700 tn. of cellulose for 1953.

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All the cellulose imported was to be mixed with Czechoslovak cellulose to improve the quality of rayon produced from this raw material. Domestic Czechoslovak production of cellulose could be large enough to cover all Czechoslovak needs for this material, but Czechoslovakia preferred to import some cellulose because of the better quality of the imported cellulose.

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2. Chemapol planned to import 2,700 tn. of raw borax for 1953.

Chemapol would be allotted only about 1,000 tn. and the remaining 1,700 tn. would have to be imported through unofficial channels. There were no domestic sources of raw borax in Czechoslovakia and no possibility of importing it from the Eastern Bloc states. Raw borax was used in Czechoslovakia for production of boric acid, borax, and perborate. Borax was used as a flux and in the glass industry. Perborate was used for bleaching and disinfection.

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3. Chemapol planned to import 15,000 tn. of potash salts for 1953. Of this, 10,000 tn. were to be low-percentage potash salts exported by the Soviets from Eastern Germany as reparations. This salt was to be used in the production of potash-phosphoric acid fertilizers. The remaining 5,000 tn. were to be high-percentage potash salts [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] The high-percentage potash salt was to be used for the production of the following potassium combinations: acetate, bicarbonate, bichromate, binoxalate, carbonate, chlorate, hydroxide, permanganate, sodium tartrate, tetraoxalate, thiocyanate; as well as potassium alum, and potassium chrome alum. Czechoslovakia had no domestic sources of potash salts. Of the Eastern Bloc states, only Eastern Germany (and in an emergency the USSR and Poland also) could export high-percentage salts. Even as late as 1953, however, Czechoslovakia preferred to import these salts [redacted] because of the better quality of the Western potash salts. In addition to Chemapol imports, Koospol AS planned to import about 30,000 tn. of potash salts for 1953. This salt was to be used as fertilizer without further processing. 25X1
4. It was planned to import 200 tn. of carbon black of a special quality. [redacted] This quality of carbon black was not produced in Czechoslovakia or in other Eastern Bloc states. The carbon black was to be used in the rubber industry. 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1

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